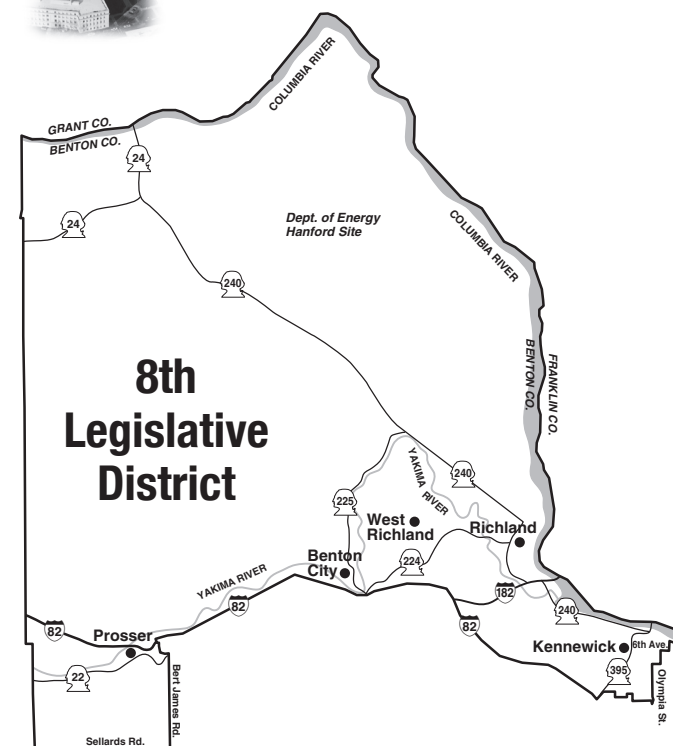




# State Representative Larry Haler



## Issues, ideas, concerns – please contact me!

Being your legislator is a serious responsibility and I am here to serve you. Please contact me to discuss topics important to you and your family.

How to reach me:

### Until April 1st:

Olympia Office:  
421 John L. O'Brien Building  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
Phone: (360) 786-7986

### After April 1st:

District Office:  
719 Jadwin Ave.  
Suite 6  
Richland, WA 99352  
Phone: (509) 372-7997

**Toll-free hotline:** 1-800-562-6000

**E-mail:** [haler.larry@leg.wa.gov](mailto:haler.larry@leg.wa.gov)



## Representative Larry Haler

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421 John L. O'Brien Building  
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### E-mail:

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### Web page:

[www.houseRepublicans.wa.gov/Haler](http://www.houseRepublicans.wa.gov/Haler)

### Committee assignments:

- Appropriations
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
- Community, Economic Development & Trade
- Early Learning & Children's Services (*Ranking Republican*)

### Toll-free legislative hotline:

1-800-562-6000

### Legislative information on the Internet:

[www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### State government on the Internet:

[www.access.wa.gov](http://www.access.wa.gov)

# State Representative Larry Haler 2008 Session Preview

## 8th Legislative District



Dear friends and neighbors,

I am honored to be your voice in Olympia. The 2008 legislative session is underway and I am at the Capitol working on issues important to you and your family.

As in all even numbered years, the 2008 session will last 60 days, and the Legislature's main responsibility is to update the state's biennial budget. The update is to address emergencies and fine-tune state program spending. My priorities for the 8<sup>th</sup> District extend beyond this and I have an aggressive agenda for the upcoming session.

I will continue to focus on early learning and helping to enhance student achievement. I also plan on working to reduce your property tax burden, increase community safety and help secure funding for local needs.

My responsibility is to represent your views in Olympia. I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me over the phone, in person or via e-mail.

Sincerely,

Larry Haler  
State Representative, 8<sup>th</sup> District



State Representative  
**Larry Haler**  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

# 2008 Session Preview

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# State Representative Larry Haler

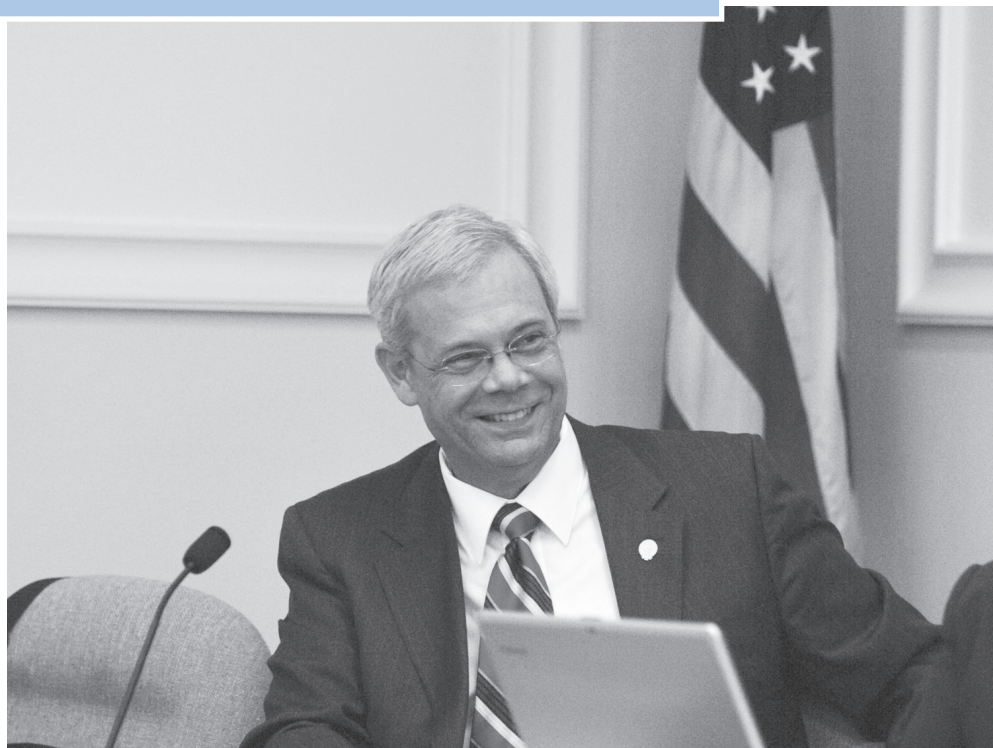
## 2008 Session Preview

### I-747: Respecting the will of the people

In 2001, voters approved Initiative 747 that capped the annual property tax levy at 1 percent. On November 8, 2007, the state Supreme Court threw out I-747. That decision sparked the Legislature to hold a special session in late November to uphold the will of the people. During this special session, I co-sponsored a bill that would have immediately provided a \$400 rebate for Washingtonians who paid property taxes on their primary residence in 2007. Unfortunately, the majority party dismissed the bill.

The Legislature acted responsibly by re-instating I-747; however, the 1 percent cap is not enough to address the growing property tax burden. This session, the Legislature needs to provide relief to homeowners who are being financially crippled by property taxes.

*Rep. Haler serves as the ranking Republican on the Early Learning and Children's Services Committee.*



### Across the state

Washingtonians are faced with skyrocketing health care costs, enormous property tax increases, traffic congestion and an education system that is struggling to keep pace. Our communities are also suffering because of sex predators and increased gang violence.

It is clear that the Legislature has a very crowded agenda this session, especially with the declining state revenue and the national economic slowdown. I am committed to working with my fellow lawmakers to address these issues.



### The 2008 budget

In late December, the governor released her supplemental operating budget for 2008. Her approach goes well beyond what I support, which is to address unavoidable expenditures, fine tune funding for education and other programs, and respond to emergencies. While money would be directed to help the flood-damaged southwest corner of the state, a total of \$144 million in new spending was proposed.

Some of this new spending is warranted, including money to keep colleges and university campuses safe, enhance the WASL, and pay teacher salaries. However, looking at the big picture, state spending is out of control. Spending has increased 32.4 percent in four years and is now over \$33.4 billion.

The reality is the state's Economic and Revenue Forecast Council predicts a reduction in government revenue of around \$132 million this year and the governor's office predicts a \$600 million budget shortfall by 2011. This session I will work to control spending in Olympia.

### A local focus

Over the next several months, I will work hard to secure Capital budget funding for important local community projects. I will also work with my seatmates to secure much-needed transportation funding for our growing and thriving economy.

### Your ideas hit the Legislature

Over the interim, I held informal meetings throughout the district to listen to community concerns and to answer questions from constituents. These meetings were an effective tool for me to hear ideas on how to better serve our district and the state. I will be introducing legislation this year that stems from these conversations.



### Resources on the Net

If you need information about state government, you may find the following Internet sites useful:

**access.wa.gov** – provides access to state agency services

**leg.wa.gov** – offers information on legislation and bill status and nearly everything you would want to know about the Legislature.

